

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Randall Harris and Nichole Harris,
Plaintiffs,

vs.

Broker Solutions, Inc., d/b/a New
American Funding, and DOES 1-10.
Defendants.

Case No. 8:22-cv-01023-CJC-ADS

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

[Discovery Document: Referred to
Magistrate Judge Autumn D. Spaeth]

I. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

A. Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from

1 public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that
2 are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The
3 parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section XIII(C), below, that this
4 Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information
5 under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed
6 and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the
7 Court to file material under seal.

8 **II. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

9 A. This action is likely to involve corporate policies and procedures,
10 consumer financial information, customer and pricing lists and other valuable
11 research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or proprietary
12 information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for
13 any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such
14 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other
15 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding
16 confidential business policies, procedures and practices, or other confidential
17 research, development, or commercial information (including information
18 implicating privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally
19 unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected
20 from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or
21 common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the
22 prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to
23 adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to
24 ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material

1 in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the
 2 end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
 3 information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that
 4 information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that
 5 nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained
 6 in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not
 7 be part of the public record of this case.

8 **III. DEFINITIONS**

9 A. Action: This pending federal lawsuit, bearing case number 8:22-cv-
 10 01023-CJC-ADS .

11 B. Challenging Party: A Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
 12 of information or items under this Order.

13 C. “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: Information (regardless of how
 14 it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
 15 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
 16 the Good Cause Statement.

17 D. Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their
 18 support staff).

19 E. Designating Party: A Party or Non-Party that designates information or
 20 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
 21 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

22 F. Disclosure or Discovery Material: All items or information, regardless of
 23 the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained
 24 (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that

1 are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this
2 matter.

3 G. Expert: A person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
4 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to
5 serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

6 H. House Counsel: Attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
7 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
8 counsel.

9 I. Non-Party: Any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
10 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

11 J. Outside Counsel of Record: Attorneys who are not employees of a party
12 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and
13 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law
14 firm which has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

15 K. Party: Any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
16 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and
17 their support staffs).

18 L. Producing Party: A Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
19 Discovery Material in this Action.

20 M. Professional Vendors: Persons or entities that provide litigation support
21 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
22 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or
23 medium) and their employees and subcontractors.
24

1 N. Protected Material: Any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
 2 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

3 O. Receiving Party: A Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
 4 from a Producing Party.

5 **IV. SCOPE**

6 A. The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
 7 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
 8 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
 9 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
 10 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

11 B. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of
 12 the trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

13 **V. DURATION**

14 A. Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the information that was designated as
 15 confidential or maintained pursuant to this Protective Order becomes public and
 16 will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press,
 17 unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed
 18 otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial. See Kamakana v.
 19 City and County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006)
 20 (distinguishing “good cause” showing for sealing documents produced in
 21 discovery from “compelling reasons” standard when merits-related documents
 22 are part of court record). Accordingly, the terms of this Protective Order do not
 23 extend beyond the commencement of the trial.
 24

1 **VI. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2 A. Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection

3 1. Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for
4 protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation
5 to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The
6 Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of
7 material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that
8 qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or
9 communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
10 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

11 2. Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited.
12 Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been
13 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case
14 development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
15 other parties) may expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

16 3. If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or
17 items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that
18 Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is
19 withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

20 B. Manner and Timing of Designations

21 1. Except as otherwise provided in this Order (*see, e.g.*, Section
22 B(2)(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or
23 Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be
24 clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

1 2. Designation in conformity with this Order requires the following:

2 a. For information in documentary form (e.g., paper or
3 electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or
4 other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party affix
5 at a minimum, the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter
6 “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that contains protected
7 material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
8 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
9 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
10 markings in the margins).

11 b. A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents
12 available for inspection need not designate them for protection
13 until after the inspecting Party has indicated which documents it
14 would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before
15 the designation, all of the material made available for inspection
16 shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has
17 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the
18 Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions
19 thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before
20 producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix
21 the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected
22 Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
23 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
24

1 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
2 markings in the margins).

3 c. For testimony given in depositions, that the Designating
4 Party identify the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record,
5 before the close of the deposition all protected testimony.

6 d. For information produced in form other than document and
7 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a
8 prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in
9 which the information is stored the legend "CONFIDENTIAL." If
10 only a portion or portions of the information warrants protection,
11 the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
12 protected portion(s).

13 C. Inadvertent Failure to Designate

14 1. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified
15 information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating
16 Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material.

17 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make
18 reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with
19 the provisions of this Order.

20 **VII. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

21 A. Timing of Challenges

22 1. Any party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
23 confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling
24 Order.

1 B. Meet and Confer

2 1. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process
3 under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

4 C. The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
5 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
6 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
7 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating
8 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
9 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
10 entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the
11 challenge.

12 **VIII. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

13 A. Basic Principles

14 1. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or
15 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
16 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action.
17 Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of
18 persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the
19 Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the
20 provisions of Section XIV below.

21 2. Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving
22 Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is
23 limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

24 B. Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items

1 1. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by
2 the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or
3 item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

4 a. The Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this
5 Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to
6 whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this
7 Action;

8 b. The officers, directors, and employees (including House
9 Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably
10 necessary for this Action;

11 c. Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to
12 whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who
13 have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
14 (Exhibit A);

15 d. The Court and its personnel;

16 e. Court reporters and their staff;

17 f. Professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and
18 Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary
19 or this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
20 Agreement to be Bound” attached as Exhibit A hereto;

21 g. The author or recipient of a document containing the
22 information or a custodian or other person who otherwise
23 possessed or knew the information;
24

h. During their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (i) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound;” and (ii) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound,” unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

i. Any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

IX. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

A. If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

1. Promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;
2. Promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material

covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

3. Cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

B. If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the Court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

X. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

A. The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

B. In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential information, then the Party shall:

1 1. Promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
2 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a
3 confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

4 2. Promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
5 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a
6 reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

7 3. Make the information requested available for inspection by the
8 Non-Party, if requested.

9 C. If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14
10 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
11 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the
12 discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the
13 Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control
14 that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a
15 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party
16 shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its
17 Protected Material.

18 **XI. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

19 A. If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has
20 disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not
21 authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must
22 immediately (1) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized
23 disclosures, (2) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the
24 Protected Material, (3) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized

1 disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (4) request such person
2 or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to be Bound” that is
3 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

4 **XII. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**
5 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

6 A. When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
7 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other
8 protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal
9 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify
10 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for
11 production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence
12 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of
13 disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client
14 privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their
15 agreement in the Stipulated Protective Order submitted to the Court.

16 **XIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

17 A. Right to Further Relief

18 1. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its
19 modification by the Court in the future.

20 B. Right to Assert Other Objections

21 1. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order, no Party waives
22 any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any
23 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated
24 Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any

1 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
2 Order.

3 C. Filing Protected Material

4 1. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material must
5 comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be filed
6 under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific
7 Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
8 under seal is denied by the Court, then the Receiving Party may file the
9 information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the Court.
10

11 **XIV. FINAL DISPOSITION**

12 A. After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in Section V, within
13 sixty (60) days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving
14 Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such
15 material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies,
16 abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or
17 capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is
18 returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written certification to
19 the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating
20 Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate)
21 all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the
22 Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries
23 or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material.

24 Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of

1 all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal
 2 memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports,
 3 attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
 4 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
 5 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth
 6 in Section V.

7 B. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
 8 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
 9 sanctions.

10
 11
 12 **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

13 Dated: August 2, 2022

/s/ Raymond Y. Kim
 Raymond Y. Kim
 Attorney for Plaintiffs
 Randall Harris and Nichole Harris

16 Dated: August 2, 2022

/s/ James J. Ramos
 James J. Ramos
 Attorney for Defendant
 Broker Solutions, Inc., d/b/a New American
 Funding

19
 20 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21 Dated: August 3, 2022

/s/ Autumn D. Spaeth
 HONORABLE AUTUMN D. SPAETH
 United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [full name], of _____
 _____ [full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety
 and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States
 District Court for the Central District of California on [DATE] in the case of Randall
 Harris and Nichole Harris v. Broker Solutions, Inc., d/b/a New American Funding,
 C.D. Cal. Case No. 8:22-cv-01023-CJC-ADS. I agree to comply with and to be bound
 by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge
 that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of
 contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or
 item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in
 strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court
 for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this
 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after
 termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [full name]
 of _____ [full address and telephone number] as my
 California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings
 related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____